

ABSTRACT

A comminuting apparatus having a rotor for rotation about a horizontal axis relative to a stator, the rotor having replaceable rotor striker plates secured thereto with a cutting side surface disposed radially outwardly from an outer most radial perimeter of the rotor, the cutting side surface of the rotor having axially spaced rotor teeth with radially inwardly extending rotor grooves between adjacent rotor teeth, a stationary anvil fixed to the stator radially outwardly of the rotor extending axially of the rotor and presenting replaceable anvil striker plates secured thereto with a cutting side surface disposed radially inwardly from an inner most radial perimeter of the stator towards the rotor, the cutting side surface of the stator having axially spaced stator teeth with radially inwardly extending stator grooves between adjacent stator teeth, the stator teeth alternating axially with the rotor teeth with each stator tooth disposed in a rotor groove spaced therefrom extending radially inwardly into the rotor groove radially inwardly of the radially outermost portions of the adjacent rotor teeth and with each rotor tooth disposed in a stator groove extending radially outwardly into the stator groove radially outwardly of the radially innermost portions of the adjacent stator teeth, wherein at every axial point a radially extending gap is provided between the cutting side surface of the rotor striker plates and the cutting side surface of the stator striker plates, the radially extending gap varying in radial extent over the axial extent of at least some of the stator grooves and rotor grooves.